This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling user access to distributed resources on a data communications network, the method comprising:

receiving a resource request, said resource request including a rights key credential, said rights key credential comprising:

at least one key to provide access to a resource on said data communications network; and

a resource identifier, said resource identifier comprising a resource server peer group ID and a randomized user ID, said resource server peer group ID identifying a resource server peer group, said resource server peer group comprising at least one server that maintains a mapping between asaid randomized user ID and said at least one key, wherein said randomized user ID is associated with an identity of a user thereby protecting said identity; and

providing access to said resource using said at least one key.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling user access to distributed resources on a data communications network, the method comprising:

receiving a resource request, said resource request including a rights key credential, said rights key credential comprising:

at least one key, each of said at least one key providing access to at least one resource on said

data communications network, each of said at least
one resource stored on a separate secure device; and

a resource identifier, said resource identifier
comprising a resource server peer group ID and a
randomized <u>user</u> ID, said resource server peer group
ID identifying a resource server peer group, said
resource server peer group comprising at least one
server that maintains a mapping between a<u>said</u>
randomized <u>user</u> ID and said at least one key<u>, wherein
said randomized user ID is associated with an
identity of a user thereby protecting said identity</u>;
and

providing access to said resource using said at least
one key.

3.   (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable
by a machine, embodying a program of instructions executable by
the machine to perform a method for controlling user access to
distributed resources on a data communications network, the
method comprising:

receiving a resource request, said resource request
including a rights key credential, said rights key
credential comprising:

at least one key to provide access to a resource
on said data communications network; and

a resource identifier, said resource identifier
comprising a resource server peer group ID and a
randomized <u>user</u> ID, said resource server peer group
ID identifying a resource server peer group, said
resource server peer group comprising at least one
server that maintains a mapping between a <u>said</u>
randomized <u>user</u> ID and said at least one key<u>, wherein
said randomized user ID is associated with an
identity of a user thereby protecting said identity</u>;
and

> providing access to said resource using said at least one key.

4.   (Currently Amended)   A program storage device readable by a machine, embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for controlling user access to distributed resources on a data communications network, the method comprising:

> receiving a resource request, said resource request including a rights key credential, said rights key credential comprising:

>> at least one key, each of said at least one key providing access to at least one resource on said data communications network, each of said at least one resource stored on a separate secure device; and

>> a resource identifier, said resource identifier comprising a resource server peer group ID and a randomized user ID, said resource server peer group ID identifying a resource server peer group, said resource server peer group comprising at least one server that maintains a mapping between ~~a~~ said randomized user ID and said at least one key, wherein said randomized user ID is associated with an identity of a user thereby protecting said identity; and

> providing access to said resource using said at least one key.

5.   (Currently Amended)   An apparatus for controlling user access to distributed resources on a data communications network, the apparatus comprising:

> means for receiving a resource request, said resource request including a rights key credential, said rights key credential comprising:

at least one key to provide access to a resource on said data communications network; and

a resource identifier, said resource identifier comprising a resource server peer group ID and a randomized <u>user</u> ID, said resource server peer group ID identifying a resource server peer group, said resource server peer group comprising at least one server that maintains a mapping between ~~a~~ <u>said</u> randomized <u>user</u> ID and said at least one key<u>, wherein said randomized user ID is associated with an identity of a user thereby protecting said identity</u>; and

means for providing access to said resource using said at least one key.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling user access to distributed resources on a data communications network, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a resource request, said resource request including a rights key credential, said rights key credential comprising:

at least one key, each of said at least one key providing access to at least one resource on said data communications network, each of said at least one resource stored on a separate secure device; and

a resource identifier, said resource identifier comprising a resource server peer group ID and a randomized <u>user</u> ID, said resource server peer group ID identifying a resource server peer group, said resource server peer group comprising at least one server that maintains a mapping between ~~a~~ <u>said</u> randomized <u>user</u> ID and said at least one key<u>, wherein said randomized user ID is associated with an identity of a user thereby protecting said identity</u>; and

means for providing access to said resource using said at least one key.